

Liquor Traffic—Manitoba.

do not think so. There have been only two cases of drunkenness daily for the past five years, and not many other cases, not including breaches of the health by-law.

30482 Are there any suggestions you wish to make to the Commission in regard to the liquor traffic, any amendments to the law you desire to suggest?—I have not considered the matter; I did not know on what points I would be examined.

By Rev. Dr. McLeod:

30483. You have said that the arrests for drunkenness have not exceeded two per day. Do you understand that that is about the number of drunks in the city?—I would be sorry to say that; I simply referred to the number brought before me.

30484. Do you think that the police arrest all drunken people whom they see?—I think the probabilities are that if a man is a little intoxicated, he may be sent to his home.

30485. You think it is the rule in case a man is going along, although not very steadily but quietly and is tending homewards, to allow him to go?—Yes.

30486. But if he is creating a disturbance they arrest him, I suppose?—Then he is arrested—there is no doubt about it.

30487. I think you said there has not been much change in the drinking habits of the people during late years?—I do not think there has been an increase in proportion to the population.

30488. You remember very well the boom days?—Yes.

30489. Was there more drinking then than now?—Yes.

30490. To what do you attribute the change, to the fact that there is less liquor drunk now than then?—I suppose there is not as much money about, and everybody was in a state of excitement in the boom days.

30491. You think that aside from that time, which covered an exceptional condition of things, the condition has been about the same?—There has been very little change.

30492. You have said that you do not have before you very many cases of violation of the license law?—No.

30493. Have you reason to believe there are many cases of violation, aside from those you know officially?—As to whether there is drinking during prohibited hours, I have no doubt of it. I have, however, no positive knowledge of my own, but simply hearsay testimony.

30494. You say that there have only been a few cases brought before you officially; but from your own knowledge, do you think there is a good deal of such sale?—Both on Sunday and on other days.

30495. Have you any idea why more cases have not been prosecuted and brought before you?—Only that the cases have not been brought forward.

30496. Whose duty is it to prosecute in such cases?—I consider it is the duty of the Inspector of Licenses, Mr. Clarke.

30497. What is the extent of his jurisdiction?—He is Inspector for the whole province and also for the city of Winnipeg.

30498. Then he has his hands full to perform the duties of his office?—Yes.

30499. The charges brought before you, however, have been charges brought up by him, I suppose?—Yes.

30500. Under whose direction are the police of this city?—Under the direction of the Mayor, the Judge of the County Court and myself.

30501. Do you know if the police take notice of violations of the license law?—I do not think it is the duty of the police to do so, except they see an open violation of the law, such for instance, as finding a number of people getting drinks during prohibited hours in saloons or places of that kind.

30502. Have you had any instructions in regard to enforcing the license law?—I have here a letter from the Board of Police Commissioners to the Department of the Attorney General on the subject. The letter is as follows:—(Appendix 1)

30503. Does the Board of Police Commissioners instruct the police to give any special attention, or such attention as they can give outside of other matters, to violations of the license law?—They do.

ADAM JOHN LANE PEEBLES.